

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) In a relationship between a fluid supplier and a user, system for distributing fluids, the system comprising:
 - a transportable fluid container containing a fluid;
 - a fluid distribution station in fluid communication with the fluid container, the fluid distribution station being configured to:
 - dispense an amount of fluid from the transportable fluid container;
 - determine the amount of fluid being dispensed from the transportable fluid container; and
 - transmit information about the dispensed fluid; and
 - a computer system in communication with the fluid distribution station, the computer system comprising a processor and instructions executable by the processor to:
 - receive the information about the dispensed fluid; and
 - account for the dispensed fluid.
2. (Withdrawn) A system for distributing fluids as recited in claim 1, wherein determining the amount of fluid being dispensed from the transportable fluid container comprises measuring the amount of fluid being dispensed from the transportable fluid container.
3. (Withdrawn) A system for distributing fluids as recited in claim 1, wherein the computer system is incorporated within the fluid distribution station.
4. (Withdrawn) A system for distributing fluids as recited in claim 1, wherein the computer system is incorporated within a control terminal remote from the fluid distribution station.
5. (Withdrawn) A system for distributing fluids as recited in claim 1, wherein the fluid is a petroleum-based fluid.

6. (Withdrawn) A system for distributing fluids as recited in claim 1, wherein accounting for the dispensed fluid comprises transferring ownership of the dispensed fluid from the fluid supplier.

7. (Withdrawn) A system for distributing fluids as recited in claim 1, wherein accounting for the dispensed fluid comprises transmitting to the fluid supplier information about the dispensed fluid.

8. (Withdrawn) A system for distributing fluids as recited in claim 1, wherein accounting for the dispensed fluid comprises determining an amount of fluid remaining in the fluid container.

9. (Withdrawn) A system for distributing fluids as recited in claim 1, wherein accounting for the dispensed fluid comprises determining whether a machine using the dispensed fluid is operating normally.

10. (Currently Amended) In a relationship between a fluid supplier and a user, a method of distributing an industrial fluid, the method comprising:

providing at the user's location a fluid container having contained therein a volume of an industrial fluid, wherein the fluid container and the industrial fluid contained therein are owned by the ~~fluid-supplier;~~ supplier, and wherein the fluid container at the user's location is isolated from a bulk supply of the fluid;

allowing the user to ~~dispense~~ dispense, with a hand-operated dispensing device,
an amount of industrial fluid from the fluid container;

as the amount of industrial fluid is being dispensed from the fluid container,
determining the amount of industrial fluid dispensed; ~~and~~

transmitting, to a control computer at the user's location, data about the fluid
dispensed from the fluid container; and

accounting for the industrial fluid dispensed from the ~~fluid-container.~~ container,
wherein accounting for the industrial fluid dispensed from the fluid container comprises

transmitting, from a web server and to a web browser on a client computer operated by the fluid supplier, at least some of the data about the industrial fluid about the industrial fluid dispensed from the fluid container.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of distributing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 10, wherein providing at the user's location a fluid container having contained therein an industrial fluid comprises transporting the fluid container to the user's location while the fluid container has contained therein the industrial fluid.

12. (Original) A method of distributing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 10, wherein the industrial fluid comprises a petroleum-based fluid.

13. (Original) A method of distributing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 10, wherein the industrial fluid comprises a lubricant for a vehicle.

14. (Original) A method of distributing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 10, wherein the industrial fluid comprises a cutting fluid.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of distributing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 10, wherein accounting for the industrial fluid dispensed from the fluid container comprises transferring from the fluid supplier ownership of the industrial fluid dispensed from the fluid container.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of distributing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 10, wherein accounting for the industrial fluid dispensed from the fluid container comprises billing the user for the industrial fluid dispensed from the fluid container.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of distributing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 10, wherein accounting for the industrial fluid dispensed from the fluid container comprises communicating to the fluid supplier information about the industrial fluid dispensed from the fluid container.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of distributing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 10, wherein accounting for the amount of industrial fluid dispensed from the fluid container comprises determining an amount of industrial fluid remaining in the fluid container.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of distributing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 18, wherein accounting for the amount of industrial fluid dispensed from the fluid container further comprises, if the amount of industrial fluid remaining in the fluid container is less than a threshold value, recording an order for additional industrial fluid.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of distributing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 19, wherein recording an order for additional industrial fluid comprises recording an order for an additional fluid container having contained therein the additional industrial fluid.

21. (Currently Amended) In a relationship between a fluid supplier and a user, a method of distributing fluids, the method comprising:

providing, at a user's location, a control computer configured to receive data about dispensed fluids;

providing a fluid distribution station at the user's location, the fluid distribution station being configured to be coupled with ~~at least one fluid container~~; one or more fluid containers, the fluid distribution station comprising a data communication interface that is configured to communicate with the control computer at the user's location, the fluid distribution station further comprising a dispensing device that dispenses fluid from the one or more fluid containers and a metering device that measures fluid dispensed from the one or more fluid containers;

providing ~~at least one fluid container~~ one or more fluid containers, each of the one or more fluid containers having disposed therein a volume of a fluid for distribution, the fluid being owned by the fluid ~~supplier~~; supplier, wherein the one or more fluid containers are isolated from a bulk supply of the fluid;

coupling the ~~at least one fluid container~~ one or more fluid containers with the fluid distribution station, such that the fluid distribution station and ~~the fluid container are~~ is in fluid ~~communication;~~ communication with each of the one or more fluid containers;

allowing the user to dispense an amount of fluid from one of the one or more fluid containers, using the dispensing device; ~~the fluid container using the fluid distribution station;~~

as the fluid is being dispensed, determining with the fluid distribution station the amount of fluid dispensed from the fluid container; ~~and~~

transmitting, from the fluid distribution station and to the control computer, data about the dispensed fluid;

receiving, at the control computer, the data about the dispensed fluid; and

communicating to the fluid-supplier information supplier, via a web server, at least some of the data about the fluid dispensed fluid. ~~from the fluid container.~~

22. (Original) A method of distributing fluids as recited in claim 21, further comprising transferring ownership of the dispensed fluid from the fluid supplier.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing fluids as recited in claim 21, wherein the one or more fluid containers ~~at least one fluid container~~ is a plurality of fluid containers, each of the plurality of fluid containers having disposed therein a fluid for distribution, each of the fluids being owned by the fluid supplier.

24. (Original) A method of distributing fluids as recited in claim 21, wherein the fluid is a petroleum-based fluid.

25. (Original) A method of distributing fluids as recited in claim 21, further comprising determining an amount of fluid remaining in the fluid container based on the amount of fluid dispensed from the fluid container.

26. (Original) A method of distributing fluids as recited in claim 25, further comprising communicating to the fluid supplier the amount of fluid remaining in the fluid container.

27. (Original) A method of distributing fluids as recited in claim 21, wherein providing a fluid distribution station comprises leasing the fluid distribution station to the user.

28. (Original) A method of distributing fluids as recited in claim 21, wherein the fluid distribution station is mobile.

29. (Original) A method of distributing fluids as recited in claim 28, wherein the fluid distribution station comprises means for locomotion.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing fluids as recited in claim ~~30~~, 21, further comprising transmitting from the control ~~terminal~~ computer an authorization to dispense fluid from the fluid container.

33. (Original) A method of distributing fluids as recited in claim 32, wherein the authorization to dispense fluid from the fluid container specifies an amount of fluid to be dispensed.

34. (Original) A method of distributing fluids as recited in claim 32, further comprising transmitting from the fluid distribution station a request for an authorization to dispense fluid from the fluid container.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of dispensing an industrial fluid, the method comprising:

providing at a user's location a fluid distribution station, the fluid distribution station being configured to be coupled with at least one fluid ~~container~~; container, the fluid distribution station comprising a data communication interface that is configured to communicate with a control computer remote from the fluid distribution station, the fluid distribution station further comprising a hand-operated dispensing device that dispenses fluid

from the fluid container and a metering device that measures fluid dispensed from the fluid container;

providing, at the user's location, a control computer that is remote from the fluid distribution station, the control computer being configured to communicate, via wireless communication, with the fluid distribution station, the control computer being further configured to communicate, via a web server, with a client computer operated by the fluid supplier;

coupling a fluid container with the fluid distribution station, such that the fluid distribution station and the fluid container are in fluid communication, the fluid container having contained therein a volume of an industrial fluid owned by a fluid-supplier; supplier, the fluid container being located at the user's location and isolated from a bulk supply of the fluid;

dispensing an amount of fluid from the fluid container using the fluid distribution station;

as the fluid is being dispensed, determining with the fluid distribution station the amount of fluid dispensed from the fluid container;

transmitting to a computer remote from the fluid distribution station transmitting, from the fluid distribution station and to the control computer, information about the fluid dispensed from the fluid-container; container; and

transmitting, from the control computer, via a web server, to the client computer, at least some of the information about the fluid dispensed from the fluid container.

36. (Currently Amended) A method of dispensing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 35, further comprising:

coupling-with a second container with the fluid distribution station; and
pressurizing the second container with a gas.

37. (Currently Amended) A method of dispensing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 36, further comprising:

dispensing the-gas industrial fluid from the second container.

38. (Original) A method of dispensing an industrial fluid as recited in claim 36, wherein the gas serves as a source of pressure for dispensing the industrial fluid.

39. (Withdrawn) A fluid distribution station configured to dispense at least one fluid, the fluid distribution station comprising:

a connecting mechanism for providing fluid communication between the fluid distribution station and at least one transportable fluid container;

a fluid displacement mechanism configured to transfer an amount of fluid from the at least one transportable fluid container;

a fluid measurement device for measuring the amount of fluid transferred from the at least one transportable fluid container; and

a communication system operable to transmit information about the fluid transferred from the at least one transportable fluid container.

40. (Withdrawn) A fluid distribution station as recited in claim 39, wherein the fluid measurement device comprises a scale.

41. (Withdrawn) A fluid distribution station as recited in claim 39, wherein the fluid measurement device comprises an impulse flow meter.

42. (Withdrawn) A fluid distribution station as recited in claim 39, wherein the communication system comprises a radio-frequency antenna.

43. (Withdrawn) A fluid distribution station as recited in claim 39, further comprising a control system, the control system comprising a processor and instructions executable by the processor to receive from the fluid measurement device data about the fluid transferred from the at least one transportable fluid container.

44. (Withdrawn) A fluid distribution station as recited in claim 43, wherein the control system comprises further instructions executable by the processor to transmit to a control

terminal via the communication system the data about the fluid transferred from the at least one transportable fluid container.

45. (Withdrawn) A fluid distribution station as recited in claim 43, wherein the control system comprises further instructions executable by the processor to receive from a control terminal an authorization to dispense an amount of fluid from the at least one transportable fluid container.

46. (Withdrawn) A fluid distribution station as recited in claim 39, wherein the fluid displacement mechanism operates using a pressurized gas.

47. (Withdrawn) A fluid distribution station as recited in claim 46, further comprising an attachment mechanism configured to provide fluid communication between an external source of pressurized gas and the at least one fluid container.

48. (Withdrawn) A fluid distribution station as recited in claim 46, wherein the fluid distribution station is configured to be in fluid communication with an additional container having contained therein a supply of pressurized gas, the fluid distribution station being operable to provide fluid communication between the additional container and the at least one transportable fluid container, such that the fluid displacement mechanism operates using the supply of pressurized gas.

49. (Withdrawn) In a relationship between a fluid supplier and a user, a transportable fluid container for delivering an industrial fluid from the fluid supplier to the user, the transportable fluid container being configured to contain therein an industrial fluid that may be dispensed by the user, the transportable fluid container being further configured to be placed in fluid communication with a fluid distribution station, such that the user may dispense a first amount of fluid from the transportable fluid container using the fluid distribution station, whereupon the first amount of fluid dispensed from the transportable fluid container may be measured and accounted for separately from a second amount of fluid remaining in the transportable fluid container, such that ownership of the first amount of fluid dispensed from the

transportable fluid container can be transferred from the fluid supplier to the user, while ownership of the second amount of fluid remaining in the transportable fluid container remains with the fluid supplier.

50. (Withdrawn) A transportable fluid container as recited in claim 49, wherein the transportable fluid container is further configured to be transported using a general-purpose freight transport vehicle.

51. (Withdrawn) A transportable fluid container as recited in claim 49, wherein the transportable fluid container comprises a fluid displacement mechanism configured to be coupled to the fluid distribution station, thereby providing fluid communication between the transportable fluid container and the fluid distribution station, such that the fluid displacement mechanism is operable to dispense fluid from the transportable fluid container via the fluid distribution system.

52. (Withdrawn) A transportable fluid container as recited in claim 49, wherein the transportable fluid container is associated with an identifier, the identifier being configured to identify the fluid contained within the container.

53. (Currently Amended) In a relationship between a fluid supplier and a user, a computer software product for facilitating the distribution of industrial fluids, the computer software product being embodied on a computer readable medium and including instructions executable by a computer processor to:

~~receive~~receive, via wireless communication from a fluid distribution station located at a location of the user of the fluid, information about a fluid being dispensed from a fluid container coupled with the fluid distribution station;

~~determine~~determine, based on the information, the amount of fluid dispensed from the fluid distribution station;

transmit at least some of the information about the dispensed ~~fluid;~~ fluid, via a web server, to a client computer operated by the supplier of the fluid; and

account for the dispensed ~~fluid~~ fluid;
wherein at least part of the computer software product is configured to be executed by a control computer located at a location of the user of the fluid.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Canceled)

56. (Canceled)

57. (Canceled)

58. (Original) A computer software product as recited in claim 53, wherein accounting for the dispensed fluid comprises transferring ownership of the dispensed fluid.

59. (Previously Presented) A computer software product as recited in claim 53, wherein at least part of the computer software product is configured to be executed on a web server, and wherein the instructions executable to account for the dispensed fluid comprise instructions to provide information about the dispensed fluid to a web browser in communication with the web server.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Canceled)

62. (Currently Amended) A method as recited by claim 21, ~~60~~, ~~wherein the information is provided~~ further comprising providing the at least some of the data about the industrial fluid to a web browser operated by the user.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Canceled)

65. (New) A method as recited by claim 10, wherein the control computer comprises the web server.

66. (New) A method as recited by claim 10, wherein the control computer is in communication with the web server.

67. (New) A method as recited by claim 21, wherein the control computer comprises the web server.

68. (New) A method as recited by claim 21, wherein the control computer is in communication with the web server.

69. (New) A method as recited by claim 35, wherein the control computer comprises the web server.

70. (New) A method as recited by claim 35, wherein the control computer is in communication with the web server.

71. (New) A computer software product as recited in claim 59, wherein the control computer comprises the web server.

72. (New) A computer software product as recited in claim 59, wherein the control computer is in communication with the web server.